

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 SPC-03 STR-08

TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 SWF-02 DRC-01 L-03

AGR-20 /120 W

----- 037524

R 211204Z MAR 74

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6596

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 1683

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, EEC, CA

SUBJ: EC-CANADIAN RELATIONS: TRADE AGREEMENT AND
DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

REF: EC BRUSSELS 1511

1. CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
LANGLEY CALLED THE AMBASSADOR MARCH 21 TO REPORT ON THE
STATUS OF CANADIAN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE NINE. HE
CONFIRMED THAT AT THE MARCH 12 POLITICAL DIREC-
TORS MEETING IN BONN THERE HAD BEEN A BRIEF DISCUSSION
OF RELATIONS WITH CANADA. THE FRENCH SAID THEY HAD A
DRAFT DECLARATION READY BUT NOTHING WAS PRESENTED
FORMALLY. AS REPORTED EARLIER (REFTEL), THE CANADIANS
ARE THINKING MORE IN TERMS OF A TRADE AGREEMENT THAN
A DECLARATION.

2. LANGLEY HAS SPOKEN INFORMALLY TO WELLENSTEIN, EC
COMMISSION DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS,
ABOUT THE CANADIAN DESIRE TO HAVE A TRADE AGREEMENT.
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WELLENSTEIN STRONGLY ADVISED LANGLEY NOT REPEAT NOT TO

PURSUE THIS IDEA IN THE POLITICAL COOPERATION CHANNEL.
HE POINTED OUT THAT A TRADE AGREEMENT IS COMMUNITY
BUSINESS AND SHOULD BE DISCUSSED IN THE USUAL EC
CHANNELS. AS TO THE POSSIBILITY OF THE COMMUNITY
NEGOTIATING A TRADE AGREEMENT WITH CANADA, OR ANY OTHER
INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRY, WELLENSTEIN WAS "VERY SKEPTICAL."
HE VENTURED NO OPINION ON LANGLEY'S GGESTION THAT THE
POLITICAL COOPERATION FRAMEWORK COULD BE USED TO GIVE
AN IMPETUS TO NEGOTIATION OF THE TRADE AGREEMENT WHICH
THE CANADIANS WOULD LIKE.

3. LANGLEY SAID THAT IN LIGHT OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS, AND
RECENT US-EC EXCHANGES ABOUT A DECLARATION ON ECONOMIC
AND POLITICAL MATTERS, THE CANADIANS ARE NOT PRESSING
AHEAD. THEY WILL WAIT AND SEE HOW WE COME OUT ON THE
US-EC NINE DECLARATION BEFORE DECIDING ON FURTHER ACTION.
GREENWALD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMITY, TRADE AGREEMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ECBRU01683
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740060-0191
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740327/aaaaayqa.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: EC BRUSSELS 1511
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAR 2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <04 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EC-CANADIAN RELATIONS: TRADE AGREEMENT AND DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES
TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, FR, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005